

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 INT-08 SCEM-02

OMB-01 RSR-01 /076 W

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R 011130 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6553

UNCLAS SOFIA 0631

E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: ECON, ENRG, BU

SUBJECT: PRICE CHANGES EFFECTIVE JUNE 1 AFFECT PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

1. PRESS JUNE 1 CARRIED BTA ANNOUNCEMENT OF NUMBER OF PRICE CHANGES INCLUDING/ REDUCTIONS FOR CHILDRENS CLOTHING, SOME MEDICINES AND CERTAIN TELEVISION SETS. ANNOUNCEMENTS AL-
LUDES TO PRICE INCREASES FOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND LUXURY GOODS MADE BY HAND OR OF SCARCE MATERIALS, BUT GIVES NO DETAILS.

2. " DURZHAVEN VESTNIK" MAY 22 CARRIED NEW REGULATIONS ON SALE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. PRINCIPLE CHANGES INVOLVE STANDARDIZATION OF PRICE AND ELIMINATION OF CASH SALES. THESE REGULATIONS CAME AS NO SURPRISE AFTER DISCUSSION IN PRESS OF CHICANERY BY SERVICE STATION ATTENDANTS AND INTRODUCTION OF ARBITRARY MEASURES TO REDUCE MOTOR FUEL CONSUMPTION OF THE HIGHER OCTANE GRADES.

3. NOTHING HAS YET APPEARED IN PUBLIC ON NEW PRICES FOR PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, BUT EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS BUL-
GARIAN MOTORISTS AS OF TODAY PAYING 40 PER CENT MORE FOR 96 OCTANE GASOLINE, I. E. 35 STOTINKIS A LITER (EQUALS TO 80 CENTS A GALLON AT TOURIST RATE OF EXCHANGE).
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4. COMMENT: PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT DESCRIBES PRICE
CHANGES AS IMPLEMENTATION DECEMBER PLENUM PROGRAM
FOR RAISING LIVING STANDARDS AND ALSO AS INTENDED
" PROPERLY DIRECT CONSUMER DEMAND." UNDER THIS LATTER
GOAL PRESUMABLY COMES REDUCTION OF CONSUMER DEMAND
FOR GASOLINE. COUPON SYSTEM FOR SALE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS
WOULD PERMIT RATIONING IF NEEDED.
HOUSTON

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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